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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2009/33 of 31 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 64/99 of 10 December 2009, the General Assembly requested that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on the question, and requested it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. The following 16 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information received, during the period under review, several specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

5. A number of assistance projects have continued to receive funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), an important provider of support, and are carried out in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

6. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicated that, during the period under review, it supported fisheries divisions and

departments of Pacific Islands Countries and Territories in their endeavours to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. As part of this ongoing support, a regional workshop on ecosystem approaches to management of coastal fisheries in Pacific Island countries was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 17 to 21 November 2008, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Pacific Community. A subregional workshop on ecosystem approaches to management of coastal fisheries in Micronesia, organized by FAO and the secretariat of the Pacific Community, was held in Guam from 30 March to 3 April 2009.

7. In connection with these events, FAO and the secretariat of the Pacific Community developed guidelines for a community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy. The guidelines are expected to be used widely in the Pacific region, including American Samoa, Guam and New Caledonia. FAO provided technical publications on fisheries and aquaculture to American Samoa, Guam and New Caledonia, upon their request.

8. FAO work on sustainable crop production, intensification and diversification is also relevant to the challenges faced by Non-Self-Governing Territories. In particular, policy support with ecosystem-based approaches that include adaptation, mitigation and prevention strategies for surviving climate change in the Territories is considered useful in this regard. Finally, FAO carried out food-composition-related activities with the secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia under the International Network of Food Data Systems project.

B. International Monetary Fund

9. According to information provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Non-Self-Governing Territories, which are not members in full standing, do not benefit from the annual consultations on economic policies under the IMF Articles of Agreement (Article IV consultations), which are the main vehicle for the ongoing relationship of IMF with its member countries. However, two Territories, Anguilla and Montserrat, as members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, are part of the discussion on common policies among member countries in the context of the annual regional surveillance exercise with the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union. Based on information provided to IMF by the Currency Union and analysed in the context of this exercise, IMF compiles economic and financial information on these two Territories and publishes the data in the country pages of *International Financial Statistics*. The IMF staff mission conducting discussions on the common policies of member countries of the Currency Union visited Anguilla and Montserrat for the first time in March 2009, and held discussions with the respective relevant authorities on the economic situation and prospects. Within the framework of its relationship with the Currency Union and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, the Fund has provided substantial technical assistance to Anguilla and Montserrat in the areas of public finance management and economic and financial statistics.

10. Further, several Non-Self-Governing Territories have offshore financial sectors that represent a substantial share of their economic activity. These Territories have been directly affected by increasing international attention to anti-money-laundering activities and combating the financing of terrorism. In this context, most have

benefited from IMF assessments of financial sector supervision and regulation, which are presented in a summary report on the implementation of the indicated financial sector regulatory standards. These assessments, developed to help jurisdictions identify and remedy weaknesses in financial sector supervision and regulation, have been prepared for Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

11. Information on the work carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Pacific region indicated that UNICEF supports the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau through a 2008-2012 programme that aims to assist Governments to progressively realize the rights of children. During the period under review, UNICEF supported these Territories in five main areas, namely, immunization strengthening; HIV/AIDS; response to the global economic crisis; food and nutrition security; and pandemic preparedness. UNICEF works closely with a wide range of partners, including donors, Pacific organizations and a network of non-governmental organizations to ensure that rights-based, evidence-informed development programming and monitoring is carried out in all Pacific countries and in the Territories.

12. UNICEF is the secretariat of the Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening partnerships, which bring together key Pacific island partners, including the aforementioned Territories, to review immunization coverage and progress towards such goals as continued vigilance to maintain zero polio cases, the elimination of measles and control of hepatitis B. To these ends, during the reporting period, UNICEF worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Australian Agency for International Development, the New Zealand Agency for International Development and the secretariat of the Pacific Community. In addition, UNICEF worked with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other Pacific subregional partners to support a framework that facilitates adequate prevention and care in the context of low-prevalence HIV/AIDS environments.

13. In February 2010, UNICEF and other partners supported the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, at which the implications of the crisis for children, women and vulnerable individuals were reviewed, and the Pacific Food Summit, at which issues related to production, trade, safety and access to quality food and nutrition for all Pacific communities were discussed. During the reporting period, UNICEF, WHO and the secretariat of the Pacific Community continued to work together closely to strengthen communication for the prevention of, and response to, pandemic influenza.

14. Turning to the Caribbean, the information provided indicated that, with regard to the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, each UNICEF territorial programme contains four elements that are integrated into a unified approach to social policy based on professional innovation and results generation. The four elements are social policy, advocacy and partnerships for children; child protection; HIV prevention and life skills; and early childhood

development. In addition, UNICEF explores media connections and interventions to advance understanding and knowledge of the issues concerned and of its work.

15. In the British Virgin Islands, UNICEF interventions since 2008 have included training for journalists on social policy; developing a national child-abuse prevention, reporting and management protocol; and developing a health and family life education policy.

16. In Montserrat, since 2008, UNICEF has held training programmes for journalists on social policy; worked on the DevInfo initiative (a database system for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, developed in cooperation with the United Nations system); undertaken the mapping of perceptions of, attitudes to, words and opinions on child sexual abuse; and developed a health and family life education policy. UNICEF provided technical assistance to undertake a quality assessment of early childhood development learning and care environments. The findings of this survey were then incorporated into efforts to develop the territorial Government's early childhood development policy, standards and regulatory frameworks, which in turn will be used to guide and monitor progress in the early childhood development sector.

17. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, UNICEF has similarly trained journalists on social policy; supported the aforementioned DevInfo initiative; undertaken the mapping of, attitudes to, and opinions on child sexual abuse; engaged in discussions for the development of health and family life education; undertaken assessments of the early childhood development sector; trained practitioners in that sector; conducted parent education; and provided public educational materials. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued the work it had begun in the Turks and Caicos Islands following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike in September 2008.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

18. A reply from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was received indicating that 14 of the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, according to the General Assembly, are small island developing Territories facing essentially the same structural disadvantages as small island developing States. Most of the Territories have a very small economic base concentrated in international trade in services, primarily international tourism and offshore services. UNCTAD pioneered international support for small island developing economies 35 years ago and, ever since, has been helping small island developing States to reduce their economic handicaps and enhance their specialization. Occasionally, UNCTAD also pays some attention to the dependent small island Territories to help them alleviate their economic vulnerabilities. UNCTAD urged the few Non-Self-Governing Territories that offer offshore financial services to become or to remain fully cooperative tax havens, as defined by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

E. United Nations Development Programme

19. With regard to the Pacific, information received from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) multi-country office based in Apia provides details of its ongoing support to Tokelau in conjunction with the following United

Nations agencies and offices: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and WHO, which officially cover Tokelau through its associate membership. Five entities (UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO) have developed specific multi-year programme activities for Tokelau. Three entities (UNIFEM, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) provide support through their Pacific regional programmes, which are focused mainly on capacity-building, training and workshops. From 2008 to 2012, total United Nations assistance to Tokelau is estimated at $1.3 million.

20. As previously reported, the United Nations/Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific Integrated Strategic Plan for Tokelau 2008-2010 was developed by the Government of Tokelau, United Nations agencies and five Council agencies in response to the request for harmonized donor assistance. The Integrated Strategic Plan, along with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Pacific subregion for 2008-2012, provides the overarching guidance for the Country Programme Action Plan for 2008-2012 signed by Tokelau and United Nations agencies. The overall support provided by the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific and United Nations agencies under the Integrated Strategic Plan is threefold: (a) technical assistance (policy development and technical service interventions); (b) capacity-building, including education and training; and (c) small grants for grass-roots development in the environment, economic and social areas. Moreover, the Integrated Strategic Plan for Tokelau provided the basis for the first-ever Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2010-2015, the preparation of which was supported by New Zealand. The National Strategic Plan was approved in 2009.

21. With regard to the Caribbean, information received from UNDP indicates that, during the reporting period, poverty and social impact analyses were conducted on the consequences of the global economic crisis in seven Eastern Caribbean islands, including Montserrat.

22. In the British Virgin Islands, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), UNDP has helped to build community resilience through a programme designed to reduce disaster risk from landslides. To that end, UNDP has used local expertise, enhanced skills and generated employment among community members to construct drainage paths, retaining walls and other infrastructure to reduce flooding and landslides in particularly vulnerable communities.

23. Further, UNDP continued to support the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management, with a view to drawing up enhanced and refined operation plans and standard operating procedures regarding preparations for, and responses to, a possible disaster in the Eastern Caribbean, and to promoting a standardized approach to disaster assessment.

F. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

24. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has indicated in its reply that three Non-Self-Governing Territories have the status of associate members, namely, the British Virgin Islands (1983), the

Cayman Islands (1999) and Tokelau (2001). A consultative process has started with Bermuda, which has expressed an interest in associate membership. UNESCO employs every opportunity to engage with Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional, subregional and national levels in information-sharing, capacity-building and other joint ventures. A number of World Heritage sites are located in Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as the Historic Town of St. George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); the Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (France); and Henderson Island (Pitcairn, United Kingdom).

25. In the Caribbean region, UNESCO provided support to a conference on higher education for the Eastern Caribbean countries, held in Saint Lucia from 22 to 24 March 2010 and organized by the Commonwealth of Learning and the OECS secretariat. The main objective of the conference was to assess policy and institutional challenges in terms of transition from colleges to higher education institutions in the Eastern Caribbean States. UNESCO sponsored participants from Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

26. Within the framework of the capacity-building project on education statistics, UNESCO organized national and regional training workshops on regional capacity-building in education statistics in the Caribbean between 2008 and 2010. A number of participants came from Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat.

27. In the British Virgin Islands, UNESCO is implementing, in partnership with the British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO, the Youth Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage (YouthPATH) project. The project, which is to be completed in 2010, provides training to 20 young people from Anegada, Tortola and Virgin Gorda in heritage site identification and documentation, tourism product development, cultural and natural heritage preservation and life skills training.

28. In Montserrat, UNESCO provided technical support to the Government with a view to developing a national policy for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

29. In Tokelau, UNESCO has provided support to the elaboration of education policy and planning, as well as the mapping of HIV/AIDS integration into the national curriculum. It has also provided support to the development of an English-language edition of a publication on traditional fisheries knowledge and methods in Tokelau, which is expected to be released late in 2010. Tokelau has demonstrated a strong motivation to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage. To this end, UNESCO has invited Tokelau to attend, as an observer, a national workshop on this issue, to be held from 4 to 6 May 2010 in Apia.

30. In the field of communication and information, the Government of Tokelau received support from UNESCO in developing a communication strategy to enhance outreach and dialogue with Tokelauans residing in the three atolls as well as overseas. The plan developed utilized a variety of media, including local FM radio stations, newsletters, e-mail and websites for information-sharing.

31. UNESCO has provided support to the upgrading of parliamentary websites in Tokelau. These improvements are aimed at supporting greater public awareness and access to information as a foundation for improving good governance.

G. World Health Organization

32. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that, during 2009, it carried out collaborative activities in American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau on various health-related issues. According to the information provided, WHO activities in American Samoa focused on fellowship support in the area of human resources for health capacity-building; childhood immunization; preventive work relating to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection; non-communicable diseases; and health promotion. In Guam, WHO activities focused on issues relating to human resources and health by means of fellowship programmes.

33. In New Caledonia, based on requests from the Government, WHO collaborative activities focused on technical assistance, for instance, in the area of the influenza A (H1N1) virus and the related coordination of the exchange of information in the Pacific. In this context, WHO informed the region about the first appearance of influenza A (H1N1) cases, and influenza-like illness trends.

34. Further, according to information submitted, participants from New Caledonia were invited to attend meetings and workshops organized by WHO on various topics, including non-communicable diseases and global youth tobacco and school personnel surveys. The Territory was provided with posters, a media release and background information on the theme "tobacco health warnings".

35. With regard to Tokelau, WHO activities were focused on the following technical cooperation and health areas: non-communicable diseases; specialized human resources development; health system strengthening; health promotion; health information; food safety; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection; tobacco control; and environmental health.